

Message Text

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VOA MUNICH ATTN. MR. HALSEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TERRORIST ATTACK ON OPEC

1. THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON OPEC HEADQUARTERS DOMINATED THE AUSTRIAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA ON DECEMBER 21 AND 22 AND ALL DAILIES OF DECEMBER 22. IN ADDITION TO FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS AND WIDE PHOTO COVERAGE, ALL MONDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS ALSO OFFERED EDITORIAL COMMENTS. (RHEE VIENNA DAILIES, INCLUDING THE SOCIALIST PARTY ORGAN, ARBEITER ZEITUNG, AND THE COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME HAVE NO MONDAY EDITIONS). TRANSLATED HIGHLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. DIE PRESSE, VIENNA'S INTELLECTUAL DAILY OFFERED TWO EDITORIALS: "THE ATTACK ON THE OPEC CONFERENCE OUGHT TO BE SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE LATEST SCANDALOUS UN RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAVE UPGRADED TERROR. THE MADMEN INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ARAFAT'S PLO SHOW WHAT THEY CAN DO. SUCH ACTIONS OF DESPERATE, OBSESSED PERSONS HAD TO BE EXPECTED AT A TIME OF EFFORTS IN ARAB RANKS TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT GIVING TO THE PALESTINIANS WHAT IS DUE TO THEM WHILE NOT LETTING THE SOVIET UNION USE THE CONFLICT TO GET HOLD OF THE MIDDLE EAST STEP BY STEP."

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IN A SECOND EDITORIAL, DIE PRESSE CRITICIZED AUSTRIAN SECURITY MEASURES AND NOTED THAT IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY THE INTERIOR MINISTER WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY RESIGNED.

3. KURIER, MASS CIRCULATION VIENNA DAILY: "THEY COMMIT MURDERS BECAUSE THEY HATE THEIR ENEMIES - ISRAEL, AMERICA AND ALL 'REACTIONARIES' IN THE ORIENT. THEY ARE KILLING, HOWEVER, PERSONS WHOM THEY ALLEGEDLY REGARD AS FRIENDS - AUSTRIANS AND IRAQIS. BECAUSE OF THEM, ARAB POLITICIANS MUST FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES. (THE TERRORISTS) KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS PRECISELY THESE MEN WHO BENEVOLENTLY WILL HAVE TO FINANCE THEIR ACTIONS OF POLITICAL MADNESS ALSO IN THE FUTURE. THEY HAVE TAKEN AS HOSTAGES ELEVEN MINISTERS AND DOZENS OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS, AND THEY WILL PERHAPS BLACKMAIL THE WHOLE WORLD.... THEY HAVE ASKED FOR A PLANE TO TAKE THEM TO AN ARAB COUNTRY. THEY SURELY ALSO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT THEY - THE ABDUCTORS OF ARAB TOP POLITICIANS AND THE ASSASINS OF AN ARAB - WILL DISAPPEAR THERE FOREVER IN A JAIL. OR ARE WE WRONG?"

4. KRONEN-ZEITUNG, VIENNA TABLOID WITH AUSTRIA'S LARGEST CIRCULATION: "IT IS EASY TO ESTABLISH A LINK BETWEEN THE OPEC AND TERRORISM - ARAB TERRORIST GROUPS HAVE BEEN FINANCED MAINLY BY THE OIL MILLIONS. SOME UPRIGHT AUSTRIANS WILL THINK: 'SERVES THEM RIGHT,' BUT THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE THE PROPER ATTITUDE TO THE DRAMA, NOT ONLY BECAUSE AUSTRIAN POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN SHOT, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF SECURITY OF THE (OPEC) CONFERENCE MUST FEEL EMBARRASSED...ONCE MORE, OUR NEUTRAL COUNTRY HAS HAD TO REALIZE THAT THIS NEW KIND OF WAR DOES NOT RESPECT NEUTRALITY AND THAT THE WHOLE WORLD IS IN A THEATER OF WAR."

5. OBEROESTERREICHISCHE NACHRICHTEN, LINZ, LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY PROVINCIAL PAPER: "IT HAS BEEN OBVIOUS SINCE THE MASSACRE AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN MUNICH THAT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, CONGRESSES AND CONFERENCES NEED SPECIAL PROTECTION FROM TERRORISM. THE COUNCIL OF OPEC MINISTERS IS UNDOUBTEDLY SUCH A CONFERENCE. FOR ALL WE KNOW, HOWEVER, THERE WAS EVEN LESS POLICE PROTECTION THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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AT A CAMPAIGN RALLY OF MINOR IMPORTANCE. THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED WILL HARDLY APPRECIATE WHAT AUSTRIA HAS DONE IN THIS RESPECT, NO MATTER HOW THINGS WILL DEVELOP AND WHAT THE ENDING."

6. SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN, PRESTIGIOUS PROVINCIAL PAPER: "IT IS FUTILE TO TALK ABOUT SECURITY PROBLEMS - TOTAL PROTECTION CANNOT BE GUARANTEED IN THE WORLD. MOREOVER, THE

OPEC AS AN INSTITUTION WITH A STATUS EQUAL TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAS THE RIGHT TO SET UP ITS OWN SECURITY FORCE AND HAS INSISTED ON IT... A RADICAL GROUP... IS THUS TRYING TO EXERT PRESSURE ON ARAB COUNTRIES, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WANTS OIL TO BE USED AS AN ARAB WEAPON, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT WANTS TO SHOW TO SENSIBLE ARAB POLITICIANS SUCH AS SADAT THAT THEY WILL BE IN DANGER IF THEY TRY TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL."

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